

# Sweden

## I. The Elder Nation of the Hardy North

By A. MacCallum Scott

Author of "Through Finland," etc.

**S**WEDEN (known in Swedish as Sverige) is the immemorial home and breeding ground of that mighty northern race which has been the dominant strain in the world since the Goths broke up the Roman Empire.

Here in the sacred land of Odin, with the most ancient temple and place of sacrifice of the Gods of the North at Upsala, for unnumbered thousands of years before the birth of Christ, while the Romans and the Greeks were yet barbarians, before the nomad Abraham migrated with his flocks and his herds from Ur of the Chaldees, before the earliest Pharaoh ruled in Egypt, the blue-eyed, flax-haired, long-headed Goths had settled.

Century by century, amid the forests, lakes and meadows, they increased their numbers and developed those special traits of character, intellect, and physique which, in the fullness of time, were to give their children's children the world for an inheritance.

Here was the "Northern Hive" from which issued the swarms which settled all over Europe. No written record of their early life

remains, but the ancient stone and bronze and iron implements and weapons, the skulls and urns and ornaments and coins found in numerous graves and burial mounds, and displayed in wonderful sequence in the Northern Museum, in Stockholm, tell a story which archaeologists are just beginning to learn to decipher.

Most other European races have changed greatly since history first began to be recorded. It would be impossible now to find the pure stock of ancient Greece and Rome. Celtic, Iberian, Teutonic, and Slavonic are mingled in inextricable confusion from the Urals

to the Atlantic, and from the Baltic to the Mediterranean. From the cross-breeding new and vigorous races have sprung. The Jews, with marvelous tenacity, though dispersed over the face of the world, have succeeded in retaining their racial purity in a remarkable degree. But in Scandinavia nature alone has preserved the Gothic type undiluted. The Swedes to-day are, in character and physique, very much what their pagan ancestors were, according to the descriptions of



PEASANT GIRL OF GARPENBERG

The people of Sweden are as interesting in character and appearance as the scenery itself, and many lovely faces may be seen in the old land of Goths and Vikings

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## SWEDEN & ITS PEOPLE



### ANTIQUATED FIRE ALARM OF LEKSAND

"Break the glass and blow the horn!" This old-world device, still to be found in some of the more remote villages of Sweden, is gradually being displaced by electrical fire-alarm boxes, which afford instant communication with the fire stations

*Photo, Publishers' Photo Service*

Tacitus and other Roman writers. In Norway, which was colonised at a later period than Sweden, the Goths acquired somewhat different characteristics. One of the qualities which have made this race so powerful a stock is its rapid adaptability to changing conditions. In war, in commerce, and in social culture, they displayed an extraordinary facility for breaking away from old conventions, and for finding the best equipment with which to survive in a new environment.

In the ninth century they were equally at home on their pasture farms in Iceland and in the Emperor's Guard at Constantinople, fighting savage Finns in the northern forests or fanatical Arabs on the edge of the Syrian Desert. This adaptability accounts for the sharp national distinction between Norwegians and Swedes who, nevertheless, spring from the same Gothic stock.

Although they are parts of the same Scandinavian peninsula, and lie alongside each other for 1,000 miles, north and south, the character of the two countries is radically different. It is the difference between the Highlands and the Lowlands, between the deep, far-reaching fjords of the Atlantic seaboard and the broad, fertile plains of Scania projecting into the Baltic.

The narrow strips of arable land at the head of the fjords and in the bottom of the deep, narrow valleys of Norway afforded little scope for increase of population, or

for the accumulation of wealth from agriculture. The Norwegians were forced by nature to take to the sea as fishers, or in search of plunder or new homes "West Over Sea." Norway was pre-eminently the home of the pirate Vikings. War, rather than trade, was the motive that drove them abroad. Their poor country afforded them little to barter, so, with the strong hand, they took what they required.

The same race in Sweden grew rich in flocks and herds and tillage. There



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was a large and prosperous agricultural population with plenty of room for expansion. Round the coast, and on the numerous rivers and inland waters, was bred a hardy race of fishers and sailors. They had not the same imperative need for plunder, but an adventurous and enterprising spirit drove them eastwards in search of trade.

In their own country they had been accustomed to river and lake navigation. They ventured up the great rivers which fall into the southern Baltic until they met the Syrian and Greek traders from the Byzantine

Empire, and they bartered with them amber, furs, fish, and slaves, for rich fabrics, gold and silver ornaments, weapons, and wine. They adapted themselves to commerce with the same facility as they adapted themselves to war by sea or land. By-and-by they reached Constantinople itself, ready for any enterprise in trade or war.

This is not the place to tell how the Swedish Viking traders at length established, under Rurik, the Empire of Russia. But it is necessary to point out how this long-continued intercourse along the "Varangian Route" with



BEVY OF SWEDISH YOUNGSTERS IN TRADITIONAL COSTUME

In the Swedes a predilection for handicraft seems to be innate, and the arts and crafts movement inaugurated in 1874 has swept the country. "Sloyd," meaning all forms of handicraft, is part of the school system, and home industries now put large sums into the pockets of the peasantry. The revival of home weaving and home dyeing has led to a readoption of national folk costume

*Photo, Publishers' Photo Service*





#### RECRUITS ROUND CAPTURED GUN IN STOCKHOLM'S PALACE YARD

Many years have passed since a Swedish army took the field, but in its existing army Sweden possesses troops who are worthy heirs of the military genius that once made her a great Continental power. The total peace establishment numbers 104,000 troops, of whom about 72,500 are infantry, armed with the Mauser rifle and comprising a very high percentage of crack marksmen

*Photo, Donald McLeish*

the Byzantine Empire in its most glorious days, and with the East, gave the development of the Swedish people a different turn from that of the Norwegians, whose face was towards the Atlantic. Notable traces of that ancient intercourse have been found in the shape of thousands of gold and silver coins and other articles of Byzantine, and even Arabic, manufacture, which have been unearthed in Sweden.

The difference between Norwegians and Swedes is very much the difference between Scots and English. Norway is the poorer country, and her conditions have remained more simple. Sweden

is opulent by comparison, maintains a much larger population, in closer community, and has been much more highly industrialised.

The Norwegians are more democratic, less conscious of class distinctions, more inclined to resent the exercise of central authority. Sweden, with greater accumulation of wealth, has acquired an aristocracy. Social distinctions are much more pronounced. Stockholm is not only a larger town than Christiania, it is more cosmopolitan, less provincial. Sweden is the elder brother who has inherited the estates. Norway is the younger brother who has had to go out





#### STALWART SWEDISH GUARDIANS OF THE KING'S MAJESTY

Swedish soldiers are noted for their height and military bearing, and in parade order present a most spectacular appearance. The lifeguards, who furnish a special guard at the royal palace in Stockholm on state occasions, wear an imposing uniform of the time of Charles XII., recalling the most glorious period of the country's history when Sweden was still at the zenith of her power

*Photo, Donald McLeish*





#### HARDY YOUNG DEVOTEES OF SWEDEN'S POPULAR WINTER SPORT

Almost as soon as a Swedish child can walk he puts on the skates, for on the ice the Swede is usually invincible. "Idrott," or sport, is a native word which holds great significance for him; it is an heirloom from antiquity, and like his ancestors the youth of Sweden delights in every kind of vigorous exercise—especially those which have a spice of danger in them



#### SWEDISH SCHOOLBOYS SKI-RUNNING OVER THE FROZEN PLAINS

All classes of people in Sweden are greatly addicted to sport. In skating especially the Swedes are adepts, and like their neighbours, the Norwegians, they are devoted to the skis. Much is done by them to encourage ski-ing, which is one of the finest, healthiest, and most invigorating of winter sports, and a well-known society has been formed to arrange matches and supervise competitions



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into the world to push his fortune.

Sweden stretches for over 1,000 miles northwards, from the latitude of the south of Scotland to well beyond the Arctic Circle. Malmö, in the extreme south, lies in about the same latitude as Edinburgh. Gothenburg, the second largest town, corresponds to Aberdeen, and Stockholm, the capital, to Kirkwall, in the Orkney Islands. Sundsvall, the centre of the timber trade, is farther north than Cape Farewell, in Greenland; Haparanda, at the head of the Gulf of Bothnia, is on the same parallel as the centre of Iceland; while Gellivare, in Lapland, beyond the Arctic Circle, lies nearer the North Pole than the north-most cape in Iceland.

While Labrador and Greenland, in the same latitude, are wrapped in snow and ice, and properly belong to the Arctic regions, Sweden, which comes within the central heating system of the Gulf Stream, enjoys a temperate climate. The winter cold, though severe, is crisp, dry, and exhilarating, and affords ample opportunity for winter sports. In summer the heat is greater than in the south of England, and the almost continuous sunlight encourages extraordinary development of vegetation.

Sweden is one and a half times as large as Great Britain and Ireland together, and embraces a wonderful variety of scenery. Its coasts on the

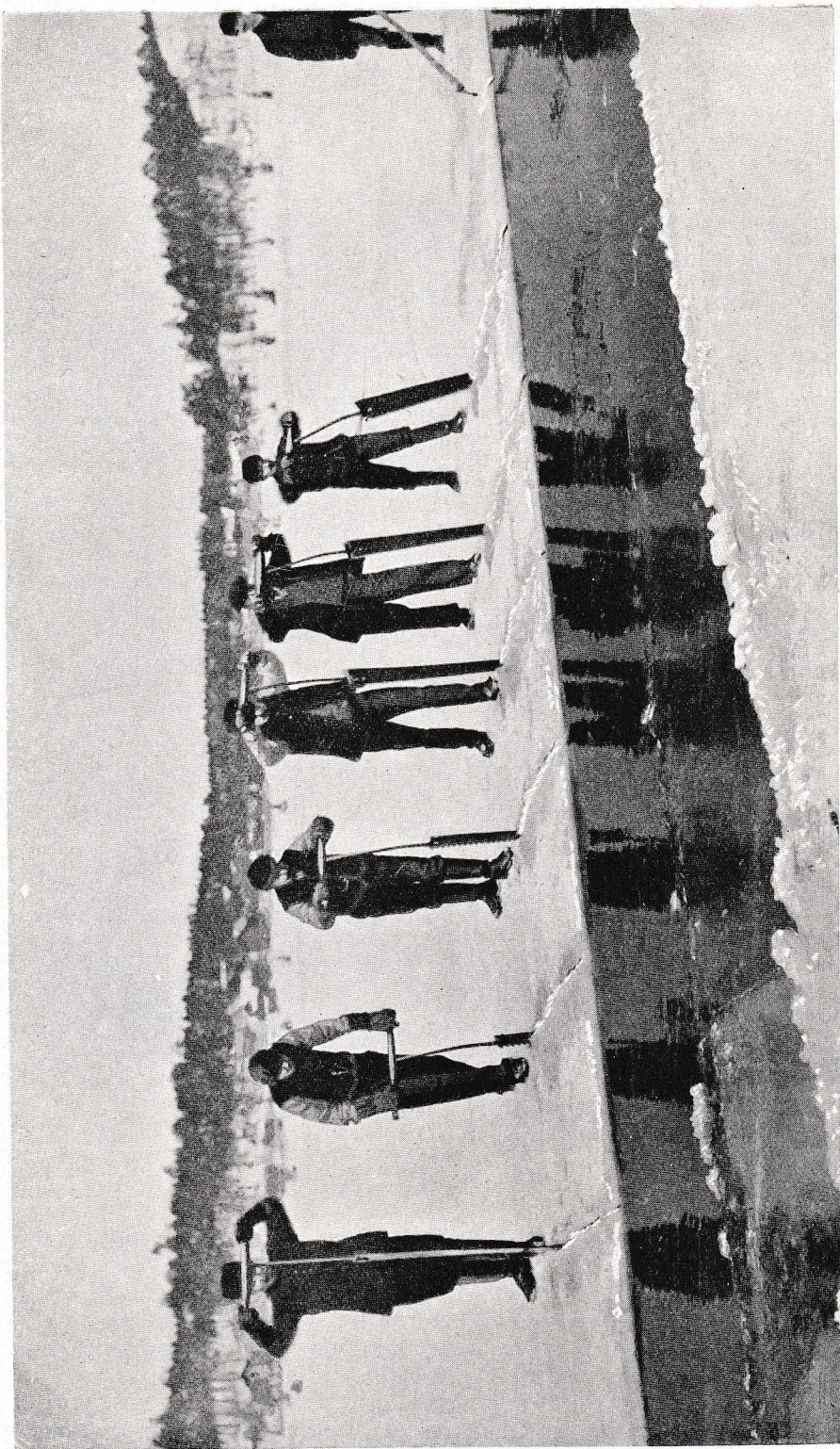


SWEDISH GAMES: THROWING THE DISCUS

From Viking times the Swedes have enjoyed a reputation for skill in all sports and manly exercises, and the uniform success of the Swedish athletes in the Olympic games testifies to the physical proficiency of the race

Kattegat and the Baltic are fringed by a wide belt of innumerable islands, ranging from water-worn granite rocks, protruding like the back of some sea-monster, to large agricultural territories like Gothland and Öland. Many of these islands are covered with forests of pine and birch. The world does not offer a more complete rest-cure than a





LAYING IN STORES OF NATURAL ICE AT STOCKHOLM FOR USE IN THE TORRID DAYS OF SUMMER

"Venice of the North," as it is sometimes called from its situation about an island-dotted lake and sea, Stockholm has large water frontages. The capital is free of frosts for about four months and a half in the year, and in anticipation of the hot days that occur in the sunny though short summer stores of ice are laid in by provident ice merchants. The ice is sawn out in large slabs and kept in underground cellars until it can be profitably retailed. As explained in pages 4275 and 4310, a similar custom obtains in Petrograd



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yachting cruise in the Skärgård, as this belt of islands is called, over summer seas between shores billowing with foliage, through air fragrant with balsam from nature's own distillery.

The rich plains of southern Sweden have been cultivated for thousands of years. The beech, the oak, and the elm flourish there, and the nightingale sings in the white nights of summer on the shores of Lake Ring. The interior of the country is riddled to an almost incredible extent by lakes great and small, connected by a perfect network of rivers. By lake and river one can sail right across the country. And these lakes again are studded with tree-clad islands. Sea, land, and fresh water, forest, field, and meadow, are mingled in inextricable confusion.

Farther north, in the provinces of Östergötland and Scaraborg, and beyond the great lakes, Wetter and Wener, cultivation begins to yield place to forests of pine and spruce. In the very heart of the country is the wide-spreading valley of Dalarne, or Dalecarlia, with Lake Siljan in the midst of it. Here for centuries the heart of Swedish life beat strongly and deeply. It is inhabited by a race of stalwart and prosperous yeomen, owners of the land they till, intolerant of oppression, independent and self-reliant, who, on more than one occasion, by their resolute action and staying power, have determined the course of Swedish history. They placed Gustavus Vasa on the throne in 1523, and in the following century they supplied the



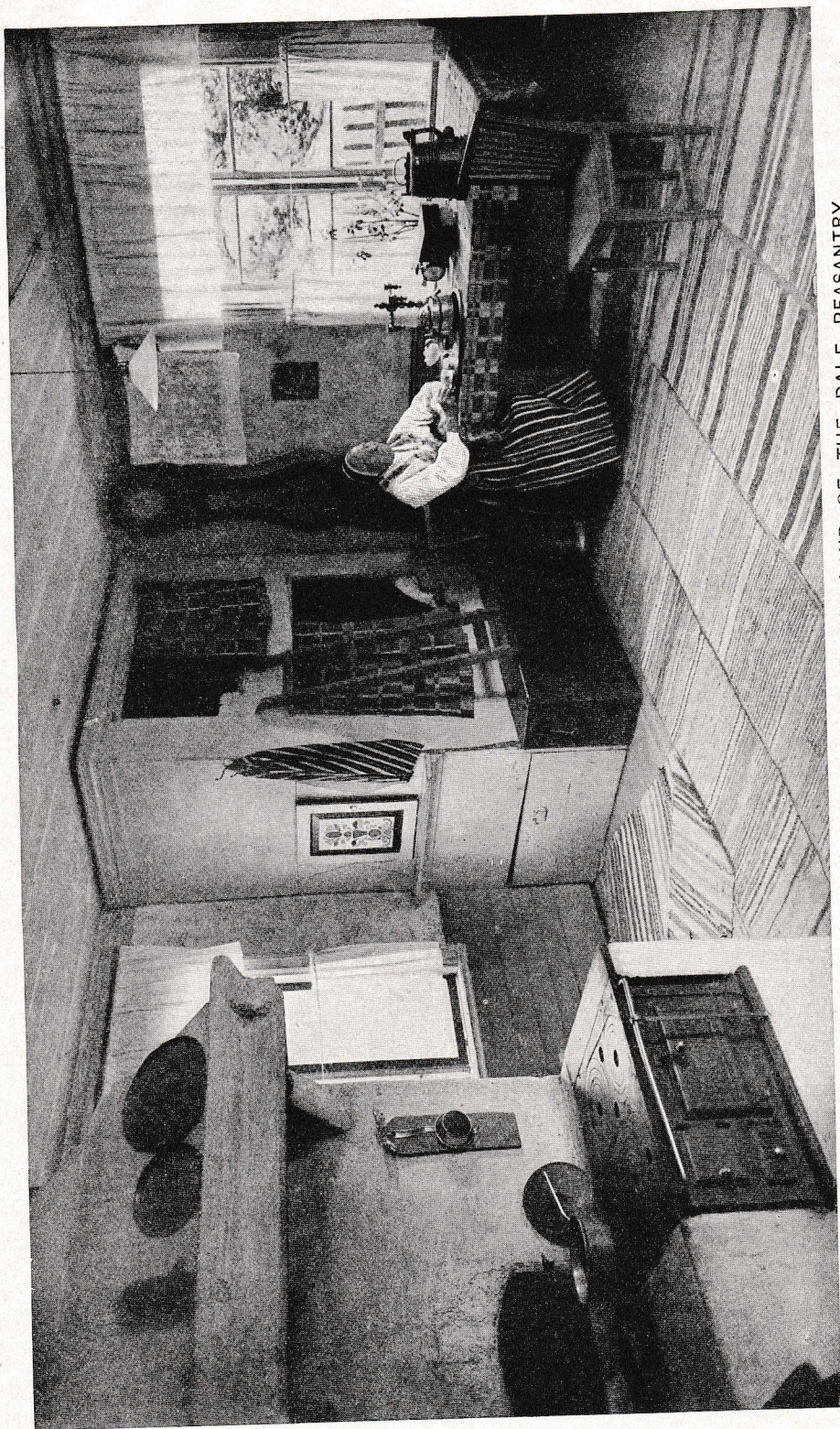
PRIZE PORKER OF THE LITTER

Most peasant families of Sweden keep a certain number of farmstock. Pigs seem to predominate, perhaps because they are easily reared, thriving on feed which other animals would reject, and because they themselves are eatable from "end to end"

indomitable troops who, under Gustavus Adolphus, placed Sweden among the Great Powers of Europe.

In their valley, remote from the world, the Dalecarlians have preserved the primitive simplicities and traditions of an earlier age. The railway is opening the door to change, but in Dalecarlia may still be seen, on gala days, the picturesque ancient peasant costumes—the men and maids still dance round the maypole in the old-fashioned folk-dances—the fires of Baal, under the name of S. John, still burn on mid-summer eve, and the great church boats still cross the lakes on Sundays, bringing the congregation from remote





# SNUG HOMELINESS OF A COTTAGE INTERIOR IN THE LAND OF THE DALE PEASANTRY

The interior of a peasant house in the Siljansdal presents a delightful, spick-and-span appearance. The Dalecarlian women are good housewives, not afraid of hard work, and bent on having their premises swept and garnished and everything done to make the home surroundings bright and healthy. Articles of furniture are not excessive in these small homes; oftentimes kitchen, dining-room, and bedroom are combined in one room, the beds being constructed on shelves within a kind of cupboard, screened from view by curtains, a short ladder giving access to the higher berth. Electric lighting is common even in remote districts



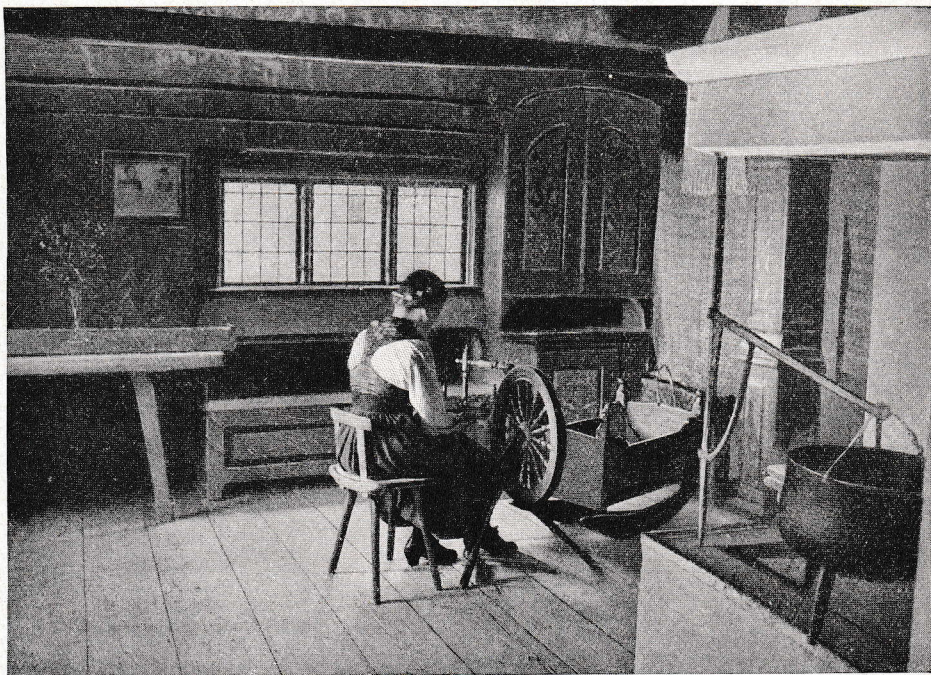
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farms and hamlets to church as they have done for centuries.

Farther north yet lie the vast primeval forests of Norrland, intersected by broad rivers, snow-fed from the mountains on the Norwegian frontiers and

prehistoric monster, and is indeed an aboriginal survival. Bears and wolves are found in the remoter parts.

Farthest north of all lie the bleak and desolate uplands of Lapland, where the pine gives place to birch, and the



IN A CORNER OF A SWEDISH YEOMAN'S DWELLING

The comparative isolation of Sweden has undoubtedly assisted the preservation of national characteristics. On the more remote districts the stamp of antiquity still rests lightly, and in many a peasant house strange, old carved benches and cupboards may be found lined up against walls which are decorated with fantastic modern paintings, often of Biblical subjects

flowing eastward into the Baltic. Such rivers are the Angerman and the Indals, which are navigable for many miles into the interior, and which abound in picturesque scenery. Millions of logs are floated down these rivers every summer to the sawmills round Sundsvall.

Many of the rivers are diversified by magnificent waterfalls and by rapids, where the water boils over rugged shelves of rocks. The river-men, trained from childhood to the task, think nothing of shooting these rapids in their frail boats, and, though accidents are rare, it is a terrifying experience for a stranger. The forests are the haunt of the elk, the greatest of European mammals, which looks like a

birch to dwarf birch and creeping willow, and that again to bare rock and boggy tundra, beyond the limit of trees. These wastes are inhabited by thinly scattered tribes of nomad Lapps, who subsist upon the fish in the rivers and lakes, and the fur-bearing animals which they trap, and their herds of reindeer which, in turn, subsist upon the moss, digging beneath the snow for it in winter.

There are, altogether, about 7,000 Lapps in Sweden, about one-third of the number in Norway, though, as nomads, they pay very little respect to frontiers, and in many cases it is difficult to determine whether their nationality is Swedish, Norwegian, or Russian. They are the dwindling remnants of the





#### OFF FOR A DAY'S WORK IN THE PLEASANT FIELDS

Their home is near Ockelbo, in Gestrikland, where the lovely Land of Dales is beginning to merge into the sterner Norrland. Only about a tenth of Norrland is under cultivation as yet, but the district, nevertheless, has great agricultural possibilities, and many a young couple make a good living on a small holding of perhaps only five acres, wife helping husband in all the work





#### SWEDISH PEASANT GIRLS IN THEIR QUAIN'T LEATHER APRONS

With the advent of machinery which made it no longer necessary for the peasant women to make their own clothes a deterioration in the charms of national dress set in. Happily it was followed by a reaction, and in the country districts vigorous womanhood may still be seen in these leather aprons that defy both wear and tear





#### WASHING PARTY WITH THEIR PARAPHERNALIA IN A DALE VILLAGE

The linen has been brought to the river in a huge tub of water, but the actual washing or pounding of the clothes is done at the river-bank, chiefly in the manner illustrated in the opposite page. Love of hard work seems to be one of the main qualities of the Dale women who, strong and self-reliant, perform much manual labour which would be expected from men in other countries

*Photo, Publishers' Photo Service*

aboriginal race, still living in conditions little removed from the Stone Age.

There are also some 25,000 Finns in Sweden. The Finns are a Turanian race, quite distinct from the general Aryan stock of Europe, who possibly occupied the country before the ancestors of the Swedes found their way to it. They are kin to the Hungarians and the Tartars, and probably they have the same remote ancestry as the Lapps, whose language closely resembles theirs. But, as they have proved in Finland proper, they are capable of a high degree of civilization. They are settled on the land in the northern parts, like

the Swedes themselves, and they make excellent farmers and woodmen.

For centuries Swedish Lapland has been the resort of those who desire to see that wonderful Arctic phenomenon—the midnight sun. M. Regnard, a French savant, visited it in 1681, and in 1737 M. Maupertuis, of the French Academy, with M. Celsius, Professor of Astronomy at Upsala, led a scientific expedition to measure a degree of the meridian at the Polar Circle.

Since then a constant stream of travellers have made Lapland their goal both in summer and in winter. From their numerous descriptions





#### OLD AND NEW FASHIONS IN SWEDEN OF TO-DAY

Many characteristics of the Sweden of yesterday are rapidly fading, and the note of modernity is now audible in village as well as in town, but on the conservative population of Dalecarlia industrial revolutions have made little impression, and like many another of her kith and kin this young girl pedals a bicycle about the countryside yet adheres to the costume peculiar to her parish



#### WASHING DAY IN THE LAND OF DALES

The native dwellers of Dalecarlia have long been renowned for their staunchness to the primitive simplicities of bygone days, and though the bulk of them enjoy a well-earned prosperity, they are as yet unspoiled by modern innovations. In the country districts the linen is laundered at the streams, pounding with a special flail being the method of cleansing most in favour

*Photos, Publishers' Photo Service*



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Lapland became more familiar to English readers than many other parts of Europe, and this early knowledge is reflected in many literary allusions. Wordsworth's famous lines:—

An old age serene and bright  
And lovely as a Lapland night,

come readily to mind.

### Land of the Midnight Sun

The Arctic Circle is the extreme southern limit from which the midnight sun can be seen. Here it is visible on just a single day in the year. On midsummer day the sun never sets, but just touches the northern horizon at midnight and immediately begins to rise again. The farther north we go beyond this circle the greater the number of summer days during which the sun never sets, until at the Pole the sun never sets for six months continuously. Of course, in winter there is a corresponding period during which the sun never rises, a single day at the Arctic Circle, and beyond it an ever-increasing period, until at the Pole the winter night lasts six months.

The long white nights of the north are a wonderful experience. The hard outlines and sharply defined figures of garish noon disappear. Everything is bathed in a soft and tender light. Every object in the landscape appears to be luminous and radiant. A hush that is almost sacred falls on nature. The impression left upon the mind is indelible.

### Magic Beauty of the Arctic Night

In winter the atmospheric effects are equally remarkable. The long Arctic night is not a shroud of blank darkness. The Aurora Borealis flashes its flaming streamers far up the sky. The starry vault of heaven seems to tingle and ring like a bell. When the moon is up, and her light reflected by the snow, it is almost as clear as daylight. But it is a witching light.

Bayard Taylor, the American traveller, has given the following vivid description of a winter day in Lapland.

The northern sky was again pure violet, and a pale red tinge from the dawn rested on the tops of the snowy hills. The prevailing colour of the sky slowly brightened into lilac, then into pink, then rose colour, which again gave way to a flood of splendid orange when the sun appeared. Every change of colour affected the tone of the landscape. The woods, so wrapped in snow that not a single green needle was to be seen, took by turns the hues of the sky, and seemed to give out, rather than to reflect, the opalescent lustre of the morning. The sunshine brightened instead of dispelling these effects. At noon the sun's disc was not more than one degree above the horizon, throwing a level golden light on the hills. The north, before us, was as blue as the Mediterranean, and the vaults of heaven, overhead, canopied us with pink. Every object was glorified and transfigured in the magic glow.

### Feudalism and Democracy

Agriculture remains the chief occupation of the Swedish people, nearly one-half of the population being engaged in the cultivation of the land, in one form or other. About one-third are engaged in industrial occupations, manufacturing, lumbering, and mining, and about one-fifth in trade and commerce.

Sweden is a land of peasant proprietors who own the land they cultivate. Feudalism was one of those institutions which were the direct outcome of the irruption of the Gothic races into the Roman Empire, and by which Western civilization was rebuilt from the ruins of the old order.

It is remarkable that the farther south one goes the more feudalism tended to become a despotism, while the farther north, and the more purely Gothic the race, the more it tended to be based upon the independent rights of the occupiers under the feudal lords.

The Swedes are given to maintaining that feudalism never obtained hold in Sweden at all, but that is due to a misconception of the part which feudalism played in the historical evolution of democracy. The prosperous yeomen, or peasant proprietors, of Sweden were so numerous as to form a separate estate in the Parliament up to



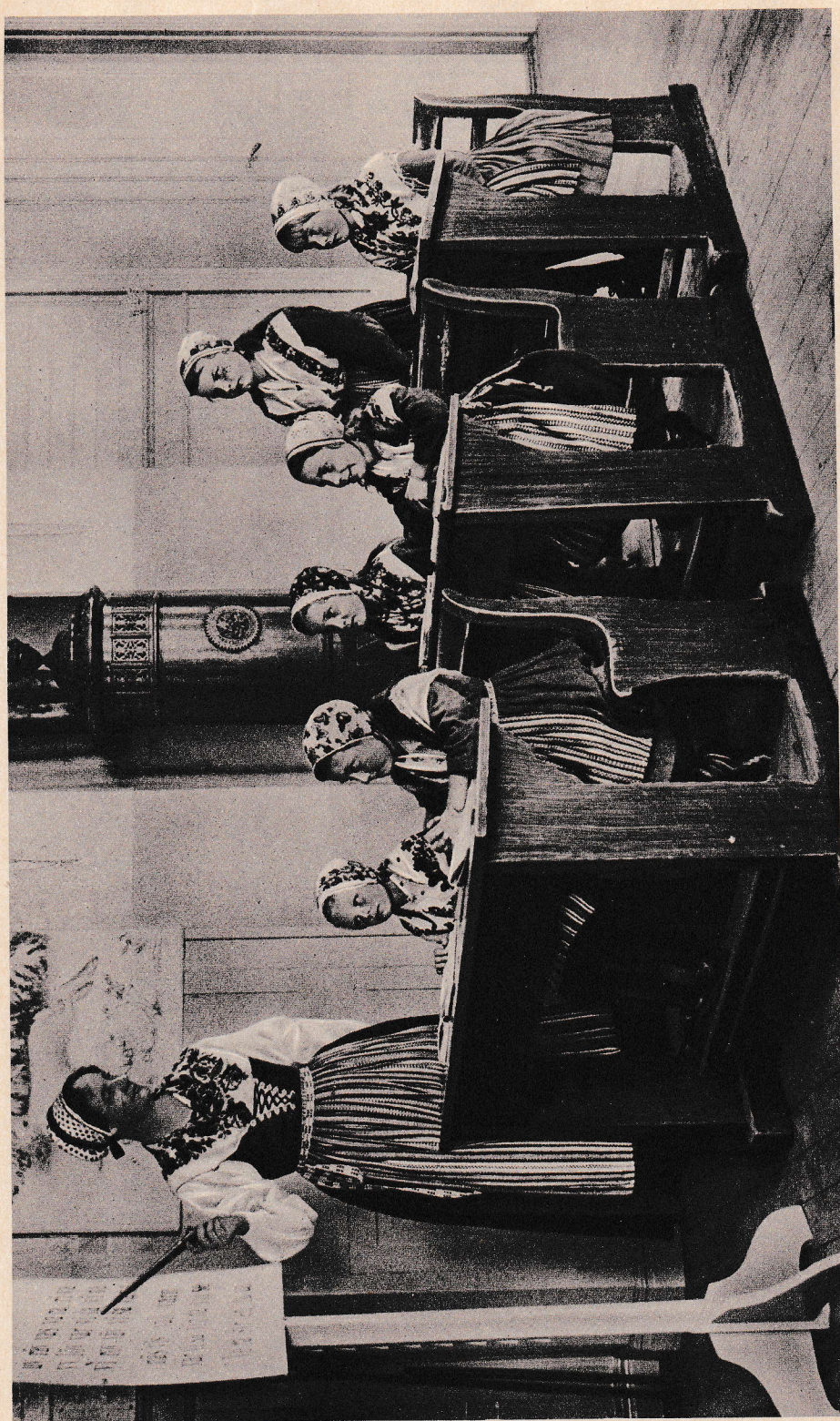
# RURAL SWEDEN

## *And Its Peasant Folk*



*Blonde beauty predominates in the women of Sweden, and the Leksand lassies are true descendants of the flaxen-haired, blue-eyed Goths*





*In the village school for girls at Leksand in the Dalecarlia district, known as the "Heart of Sweden," the bright-coloured and picturesque local costumes are in daily use both by the teachers and the pupils*

Photo, Donald McLeish





*These four merry little maids of Leksand are enjoying an open-air tea-party. High days and holidays are not very frequent in Sweden, so when they come they are hailed with the more delight by Swedish childhood*

Photo, Donald McLeish





*In old-world dress and dark cloth tasselled cap the fiddler of Helsingland Province is an ever welcome figure at all local festivals*

Photo, Donald McLeish





*This Dalarne woman is practising the most noted home industry of her district and making the coloured ribbon worn on caps and dresses*

Photo, Donald McLeish





*Pointed cap, green jacket and skirt, and coloured striped apron make this costume of Rättvik one of the quaintest of old Swedish styles*

Photo, Donald McLeish

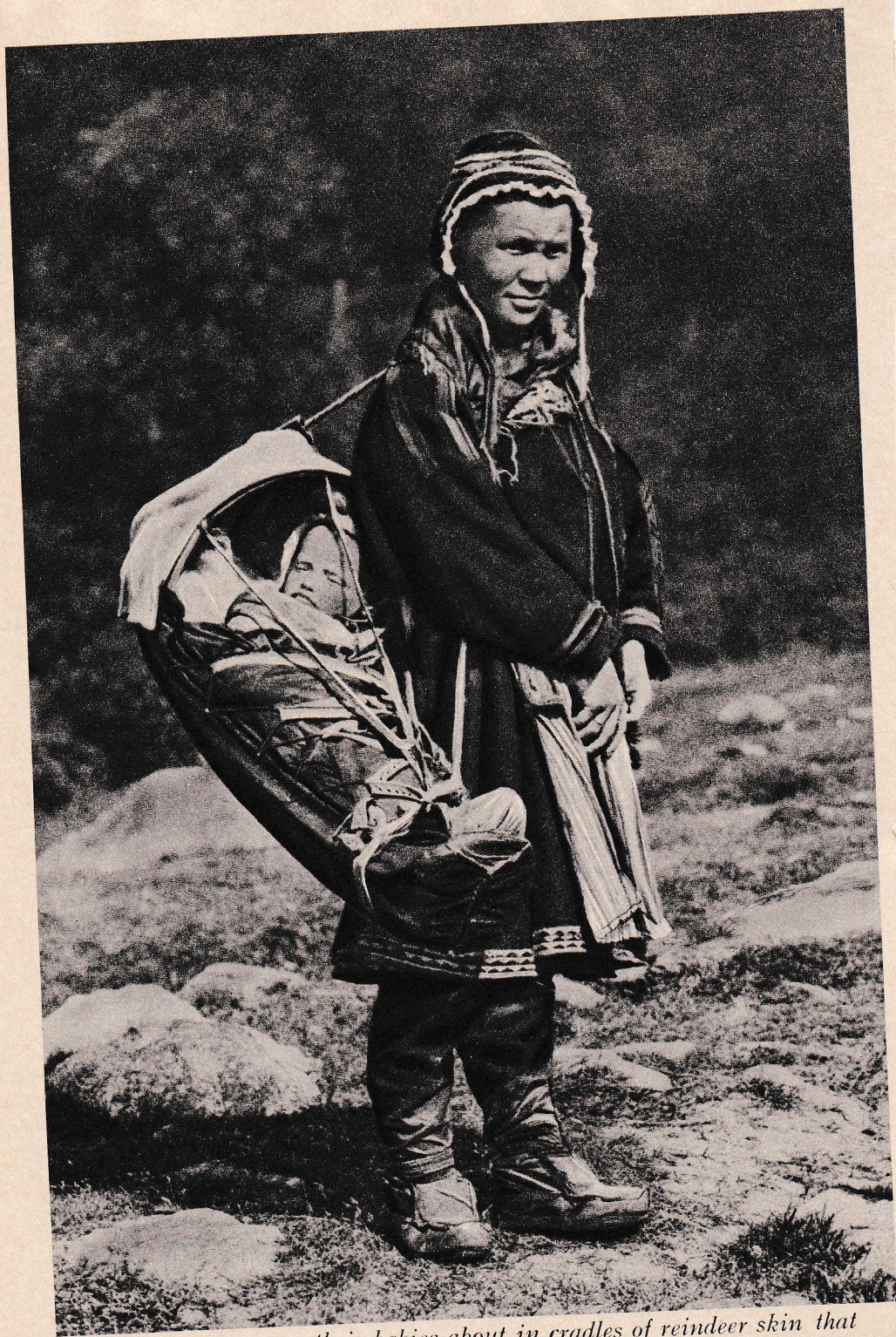




*This attractive costume may always be seen in Leksand village, and is not, as in other parts of Sweden, confined to Sunday and gala days*

Photo, Donald McLeish





*Lapp women carry their babies about in cradles of reindeer skin that can be suspended from the ceiling when the mother is busy in the home*

Photo, F. H. Owen



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1866. In spite of the rapid growth of industrialism in recent generations they are still powerful to protect their interests, as when they were menaced by the encroachments of the great lumber corporations and magnates in Norrland.

Little wheat is grown, but much oats, barley and rye. The growing of beet for sugar is an important modern development. In dairying Sweden has been a pioneer in scale of operations, in methods, and in machinery. Vast quantities of butter are exported to England. The invention of milk separators gave the Swedes a long start, not merely in the dairy industry, but also in the manufacture of dairy machinery which has become famous all over the world. Large co-operative dairies in which the manufacture of milk products is carried to the highest state of perfection have been established all over the southern provinces.

But if agriculture occupies a larger number of people, forestry is by far the most important industry, measured in volume and value of exports. The forests which cover half of the total surface of Sweden are an inexhaustible gold reef, for, under a provident system of legislation, the denudation of the country is prevented, and the felling of timber is always balanced by renewals. In Sweden 48 per cent. of the surface of the country is under forest, as compared with 32 per cent. in Austria, 26 per cent. in Germany, and only 4 per cent. in Great Britain.

In terms of population, for every 100 inhabitants, Sweden has 950 acres of forest, Austria 90 acres, Germany 60

acres, while Great Britain has only 7 acres. Nevertheless, it has been estimated that there are millions of acres, in Scotland, about one-quarter of the total surface, which is at present lying



VILLAGERS FROM THE "HEART OF SWEDEN"

The natives of the village of Leksand are exceptionally prepossessing and well-built, and their quaint, decorative attire, including the multi-coloured apron worn by both young and old, presents some of the most attractive "local colour" in Sweden

waste or devoted to poor grazing, which is not only capable of growing timber, but would yield a larger profit from timber than from any other crop, besides giving employment to ten times the number of people required for sheep farming on a similar area.

Nearly two-thirds of the total exports of Sweden consist of timber, or timber products such as wood-pulp or paper. The rivers not only provide an ideal means of transport, but they also supply the power for the mills in which the logs are converted. Far in the interior, 100 miles and more from the coast, the trees are felled in winter and sleighed easily over the snow to the banks of the





BRIDE AND BRIDEGROOM, BEST MAN AND BRIDESMAID, DRESSED FOR THE HAPPY DAY

Considerable freedom is allowed to lovers in Sweden, the amount of paternal acquiescence and blessing expected varying in the different parts of the country. The bride in these rural districts is expected to work as hard as whereas in Norway the patriarchal system is more apparent in matters of parental interference. The somewhat clerical costume worn by the bridegroom is of the any serving wench on the farm, nor does the bridegroom take life any easier than his labourers. For women the popular wedding colour is blue style and cut affected by all the Swedish yeomen for Sunday and ceremonial wear.





CHEERY COMPANY OF DALE FOLK RETURNING HOME AFTER A DAY'S WORK IN THE FIELDS

North-west of Svealand lies Dalecarlia, or Dalarna in Swedish, the "Land of the Dales," inhabited by one of the bravest and most manly races in the peninsula. Good reason have they to sing their song: "Manhood, pluck, and doughty men still are found in old Dal-Land," for it was the Dale folk who in Sweden's hour of need rose upon time as one man and never rested until they had driven away the enemy and saved the state from destruction. The women of Dalarna are as sturdy and energetic as the men, and much of the land labour is performed by them

*Photo, Publishers' Photo Service*





#### PRETTY COSTUMES OF A CONSERVATIVE AND PICTURESQUE DISTRICT

Near Lake Siljan, in the centre of the wide-spreading valley of Dalecarlia, one of the richest and loveliest of Swedish districts, is situated the village of Leksand. It is here that the neighbours gather on Midsummer Eve, all resplendent in the varied gala costumes of their parishes, to dance the old-fashioned folk-dances and to celebrate the festival with sacrificial fires on the hilltops

*Photo, Publishers' Photo Service*

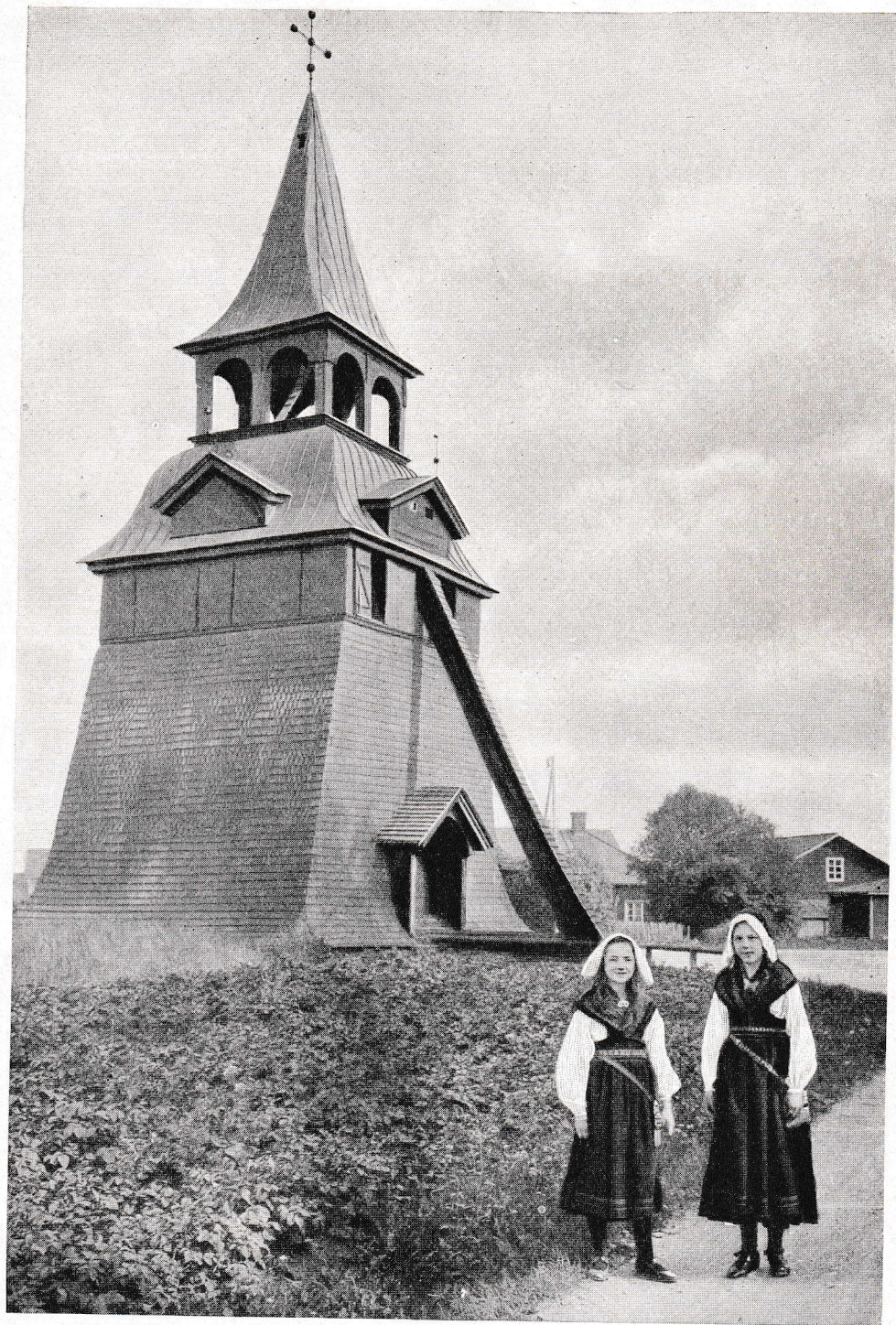
frozen river. The spring floods carry the logs the rest of the way, either singly or in huge rafts.

Sundsvall, at the mouth of the Indals river, the lumber trade capital, is ringed round by thirty sawmills. Deals, pit-props, sleepers, door and window frames, plywood, are turned out in great quantities. A host of subsidiary and auxiliary industries gathers round, and by domestic handicrafts in wood the peasants add considerable sums to their income. Some of the allied industries assume great proportions, such as the manufacture of safety matches, which centres on Jönköping.

The Swedish matches—Tändstickor—are known all round the world.

Sweden possesses valuable deposits of copper and iron ore, and from time immemorial the smelting of these ores has been an important industry. The smith was a mighty man among the sons of Odin, for he forged, and often wielded, the weapons which gave victory. The earliest worked ores were situated in the central province, round Dalecarlia, where is Falun, long famous as the greatest copper mine in the world. Over £50,000,000 worth of copper have been taken from it. In the central provinces, north of the great lakes, from





#### LITTLE MAIDS OF MORA IN THEIR COUNTRY COSTUMES

Mora lies on the north shore of Lake Siljan, that lovely lake—the “eye of Dalecarlia”—about which dwell the lusty Dalecarlians whose love of liberty and independence has remained celebrated through the centuries. An old church with a conspicuous spire is a dominant feature of the village, while the costume of the locality of red, orange, and green provides a pleasing touch of colour

*Photos, Publishers' Photo Service*



## SWEDEN & ITS PEOPLE

primitive times, ore was smelted and iron forged with charcoal from the surrounding forests for fuel, and here have remained the headquarters of the industry. For centuries Sweden dominated the international iron market. The ore was plentiful and rich and free from phosphorus, a very valuable quality for the making of high-grade steel.

The development of the coalfields of other countries has diminished the importance of Sweden as an iron producer. The ore is now shipped to the countries with the coalfields and smelted there. More recently the richer ore fields of Lapland have been developed by the construction of the most northerly railway in the world, from Lulea, on the Gulf of Bothnia, to Narvik, on the coast of Norway, beside the Lofoden Islands. This line crosses the Arctic Circle at a station called Polar Circle (Polcirkeln), and passes between mountains of solid iron ore at Gellivare and Kirunavara. The richness of these deposits is unsurpassed. Although Sweden figures now

in the markets of the world as an exporter of ore rather than of iron, another prospect is being opened up by the application of electricity, instead of coal, to the heating of furnaces. The ores of Sweden lie close to the rapids and falls which are inexhaustible sources of electric energy.

Industrially and commercially Sweden is developing rapidly, and the predominance of the agricultural interest is now seriously challenged. More and more timber is being exported in a manufactured, or semi-manufactured, form, rather than as a raw material. In the manufacture of dairy machinery, and in electrical engineering, Sweden has been a pioneer. She is fully conscious of the potential wealth which lies dormant in the great storehouses of electric energy, in innumerable waterfalls and rapids. This is the "white coal," which may yet remove the reproach that industrialism means a black country. Hernösand, on the Gulf of Bothnia, as far north as Greenland,



THREE OF THE HEALTHY, HAPPY COMMUNITY OF RURAL DALECARLIA

No province of Sweden is more full of rural charm and interest than Dalecarlia, and it represents that part of the country which has most uninterruptedly preserved old-time costumes and old-world customs. Peasant handicrafts flourish here apace, peasant lore differs but little from that prevailing in past ages, and the peasant women and girls still wear the brightly-coloured local costumes





#### YEOMAN FARMER OF RÄTTVIK AND HIS YOUNG HOPEFULS

Swedish peasant farmers, like the English yeomen, are the backbone of their country. Religious without being narrow-minded, and often well educated, they have a native worth of character that secures for them a material independence wholly admirable. At church and market many family groups like this may be seen, well dressed, well nourished, and well mannered

was the first town in Europe to be lighted by electricity. The telephone is installed in practically every house almost as a matter of course, as the water or electric light is laid on. Its cost is about £2 15s. a year. Stockholm holds the European record of one telephone for every five of her population, as compared with one to every thirty-three in London. The farmer in the remotest parts is in touch not merely with his neighbours, but with the markets of the town and of the world.

Stockholm has aptly been called the Venice of the North. It is built upon a number of small islands, and it is

intersected in all directions by waterways, opening out into the winding fjord with its labyrinth of islands. The Stockholmers are a gay people, polished in their manners, punctilious in old-fashioned courtesies, and of an abounding hospitality. In summer they delight in the open-air life of the cafés, and in entertaining parties at the numerous restaurants. A Swedish dinner, with its preliminary smörgasbord, its long sequence of toasts, or "skolls," and its gay talk, is a happy memory.

Gothenburg is the great shipping and commercial port, whose wealthy and powerful merchants have a reputation





#### OUTSIDE A NATIVE KOTA, OR WIGWAM, IN SWEDISH LAPLAND

The Lapps of Swedish Lapland, though now but poor, superstitious nomads, are one of the oldest races in Europe, and were one of the last to embrace Christianity. They are remarkably fine huntsmen, endowed with courage and hardihood, in constant contact with wild nature; yet their numbers are gradually decreasing, and their complete disappearance is only a question of time

for probity and ability established throughout the world. They carry on worthily the tradition of the trading Vikings who were their ancestors. Gothenburg is also the place of origin, and of the successful development, of the well-known system of managing the liquor traffic by means of a company, in which the shareholders are limited to a certain small percentage return on their capital, the surplus profits being expended on purposes of public utility.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain during a visit to Sweden became an enthusiastic advocate of the "Gothenburg System," which he declared was performing noble and religious work. On his return to England he converted the Birmingham Town Council to his views, but failed to induce the British Parliament to move in the matter.

The total population of Sweden is a little over 6,000,000. How far the

Swedish stock has been disseminated over the world during the past 2,000 years it is impossible to estimate. The Gothic strain has permeated all the ruling races of Europe. As the result of emigration during the past half century, there are one and a half million of people of purely Swedish descent in the United States of America.

Now that she has definitely embarked upon a career of industrial development the population of the home country will increase rapidly. The Scandinavian North is beginning to develop its own resources.

Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Finland are among the most progressive nations of Europe. They are exercising a steadily increasing influence in European politics, and if the efforts to bring about a Scandinavian League are successful its effects upon the balance of power will be immediately felt. And Sweden leads the North.





#### NATIVES OF THE BEAK THOUGH BEAUTIFUL LAND OF THE LAPPS

The old national costume of thick blue cloth is still in existence among the Lapps, and fur—as with all the northern races—plays a notable part in their wardrobe. Most of the Swedish Lapps lead a roaming life, tending their herds, for to many the reindeer is the first and only consideration. They are a pacific people and retain a large number of their Mongolian characteristics

*Photo, Publishers' Photo Service*



# Sweden

## II. Stirring Chronicles of the Northern Kingdom

By J. A. Brendon, B.A., F.R.Hist.S.

Writer on Modern European History

THE old method of telling history as a chronicle of kings is generally to be deprecated. The historian of Sweden, however, has no option in the matter. He must follow the old method. And for this reason: the history of Sweden is the history of her kings.

Under the rule of a succession of brilliant monarchs the Swedes maintained themselves, in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, in the front rank of European nations. The sovereigns of the house of Vasa, almost without exception able administrators with a genius for war, were not self-seeking adventurers. Their aims were essentially national; they made their interests the interests of the people. Their glory is the epitome of Sweden's story.

### Links with Russia and Great Britain

The seafaring, heathen Swedes of old came of that same Viking stock which peopled the other Scandinavian territories. To the Vikings the modern world owes much. To the Viking strain in British blood can be traced the maritime and colonising genius of the British race. In France the Vikings became crusaders and builders of cathedrals. Most of the peoples of northern Europe learned from the Vikings the lessons of leadership.

The establishment of Russia as a European country is the outstanding achievement of the Vikings of Sweden. The chieftain Rurik created a Swedish kingdom in Russia towards the end of the ninth century and, upon the foundations he laid, Peter the Great (1672-1725) subsequently built the Russian Empire. Russia preserves in her very name the record of her Swedish origin. The word "rus" is a Slavonic corruption of the Scandinavian "ruotsi" (the rowing men). This was the name given to the first Swedish settlers in the country.

The early kings, or overlords, of Sweden were known as "ynlings." They were so called because they claimed descent from Yngvi, son of Niord, one of the gods of heathen Scandinavia. They made Upsala their seat of government. Stockholm (the islet defended by a palisade, or stock), designed as a stronghold against Danish aggression, was not established until late in the twelfth century.

S. Ansgar first preached Christianity in Sweden—in the ninth century. But the

Swedes did not readily accept the Christian faith; they adhered to the worship of Thor, Odin, and Frey, with its attendant human sacrifice, for nearly three hundred years. Their final conversion, in the twelfth century, was largely the work of British missionaries, and in 1152 the Pope sent Nicholas Breakspear, afterwards Pope Adrian IV., the only native of the British Isles who has ever occupied the Papal chair, to organize their Church.

Eric IX., who became King of Sweden in 1150, showed throughout his reign a burning zeal for spreading Christianity. In him missionaries found a stout supporter. One day in 1160 a Danish army beset Eric while he was attending Mass. The king refused to cut short the divine service in order to fight, and so fell a victim to the besieging Danes. Subsequently canonised, he became the patron saint of Sweden.

During the Middle Ages Denmark dominated the other Scandinavian countries and, in 1397, by what is known as the Union of Kalmar, Margaret of Denmark brought Norway and Sweden under the Danish crown. A national union, sealed by a community of national interests, would have been to the advantage of all the Scandinavian kingdoms. The Union of Kalmar, however, rested on a dynastic basis only. Norway and Sweden, though under the sceptre of Danish sovereigns, remained as individual kingdoms, and—particularly in Sweden—the monarchy exercised but little authority. The wealth of the Church and the independence of the nobles stripped it of all save the title to rule.

### The Maddest Crime in History

Christian II., who succeeded to the throne in 1513, determined to end this state of affairs. Christian was a man of exceptional ability, but his arbitrary methods robbed him of support which enlightened opinion might otherwise have given him. His proposed measures were well conceived and unquestionably tended to advancement. By headstrong conduct he wrecked them; and in 1523 he found himself an exile even from Denmark.

In Sweden, instead of proclaiming himself as the strong man bent on destroying the power of a selfish nobility and so heading a popular movement, he



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falsely lured the nobles to an assembly at Stockholm, and there had them slaughtered. For two days the streets of the capital ran with blood. The "Stockholm Bloodbath" of 1520 was the maddest crime recorded in history. It completely defeated the purpose it was intended to serve, and had the effect of evoking for the first time in the country a national spirit. Thus the stage was set for the dramatic entry of Gustavus Vasa, the liberator and creator of Sweden.

Gustavus Vasa came of noble descent. His father and all his brothers perished at Stockholm in 1520. He himself escaped death only by a miracle. Thenceforth he consecrated his life to vengeance. With a price upon his head, he made his way to the wilds of Dalecarlia, in the north of the country. There he lived for a year, sharing the rough life of the peasants and maturing his schemes. Then, having collected a small band of loyal followers, he set out on his great adventure.

A series of striking successes, gained over the forces sent by Christian to oppose his advance, brought him to the gates of Stockholm. But he had neither artillery nor the material necessary for the conduct of a siege; the Danish garrison easily repulsed his attempts to take the city by storm. Gustavus thus found himself in a perilous position.

Then came the news that Christian had been expelled from Denmark. The Danes at once withdrew from Stockholm, leaving the capital in the hands of the rebel peasants. On June 7, 1523, Gustavus was crowned king. His first move was to introduce the Reformation into the country.

A man with no strong religious convictions, he adopted Lutheranism mainly to serve political ends. The Swedish crown was wretchedly poor. The Church in Sweden was immensely rich. Gustavus saw at once that without money he could never establish a strong monarchy. He resolved, therefore, to

sequester ecclesiastical wealth, and to press it into the service of the state.

Within three years he accomplished his design. This in itself did not solve the problem of regenerating Sweden. Christian of Denmark, by killing off the nobles, cleared the path of Gustavus of several possible rivals. Also, however, he removed all possible colleagues. What was done in Sweden during the reign of Gustavus, the king did himself. He was his own chancellor, his own home secretary, his own



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foreign minister, his own war minister; he had no one to help him.

His difficulties may be gauged by the fact that, on one occasion, he could not find in all his dominions an ambassador with a knowledge of the German language. Personally he taught his people mining, trade, and agriculture. He acted not as a king, but rather as the benevolent landlord of a large estate. He possessed an infinite capacity for taking pains.

### Life-Work of Gustavus Vasa

The rise of Sweden under Gustavus I. is an outstanding feature of the political history of the sixteenth century. At the beginning of the century the country, poor in material resources and thinly populated, without roads or means of communication, and frost bound for half the year, gave no promise of pending greatness. When Gustavus I. vacated the throne in 1560 Sweden was a Power in Europe.

She had a full treasury, a well-trained army, an efficient fleet. And already she had made her first bid for the hegemony of the Baltic and for the spoils which the decline of the commercial supremacy of the Hanseatic League rendered available.

The greatness of the Hansa towns, ranged along the German coast, rested—as did the greatness of Venice—largely on the spice trade, borne overland from the East. In days before men grew green vegetables spices were a prime necessity of life.

In 1453 Constantinople fell into the hands of the Turks, and old trade routes seemed to be endangered. Columbus made his first voyage to America avowedly to open a new way to the East. What Columbus failed to find, Portuguese navigators found by creeping along the African coast and so around the Cape of Good Hope.

### Disintegration and Recovery

Early in the sixteenth century merchants from Lisbon appeared in the markets of northern Europe, offering spices at one-tenth of the former price. This spelled ruin to the Hansa towns. But there still remained the valuable carrying trade of the Baltic, a prize to be coveted. The determination to secure this prize is the keynote of the policy of the Vasa kings.

Gustavus I. was succeeded by his son, Eric XIV., the one weak link in the Vasa chain. Eric, an importunate suitor of Queen Elizabeth of England, had a pronounced leaning towards the Roman Catholic Church, and during the eight years (1560-68) that he occupied the throne, he undid much of Gustavus' constructive national work.

His brother, John III. (1568-92), also had papistical tendencies. Under him the process of national disintegration continued. John's son, Sigismund, married a princess of the house of Jagellon, the heiress to the crown of Poland. As her husband, Sigismund, in 1587, became king of that country. Five years later he succeeded to the throne of Sweden. The Swedes were not then such staunch Lutherans as to reject a papist king. Their newly awakened national spirit, however, would not allow them to see their country pass under Polish domination. Charles Vasa, the king's uncle, and the ablest of the sons of Gustavus, took advantage of this and, as the leader of a national revolt against his nephew, usurped the crown (1604).

Charles IX., a brilliant administrator, securely re-established the Swedish monarchy on a Protestant basis, and restored its naval, military, and commercial organization, which had fallen to pieces since the death of his father. As a statesman Charles was unfortunate, and he died leaving the Swedes committed to wars with Denmark, Russia, and Poland. To conduct these wars, however, he left an heir who, though only a lad in his seventeenth year, was soon to prove himself one of the greatest of the captains of all times.

### Triumphs of Gustavus Adolphus

Gustavus Adolphus (1611-32) had a natural genius for war. The minor struggles bequeathed to him by his father trained his prentice hand and gave the soldiers of Sweden experience which served them well when the time came for them to decide the fate of Europe. In 1630 the hour struck. On May 19 Gustavus Adolphus, holding in his arms Christina, his three-year-old daughter and only child, took solemn leave of his people. Then, at the head of his army, he set out for Germany, the self-appointed champion of Protestantism, to stem the tide of the Counter-Reformation.

In the Thirty Years War the Swedes and their king won undying fame. Such was their might that it seemed even to the eyes of good Catholics as if "God had suddenly turned Lutheran"; and Gustavus Adolphus, when he fell, in 1632, on the stricken field of Lützen, had already fulfilled his mission. He had saved the Protestant cause in Germany. He had secured Pomerania for Sweden, and so given his country that secure foothold on the German coast which was essential to her if she would be mistress of the Baltic.

Gustavus Adolphus made Sweden a dominating military power. His daughter made Stockholm the centre of European



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culture. Christina of Sweden (1632-54) ranks with Elizabeth of England and Catherine of Russia among the really notable queens of history. She was only a child when she came to the throne. During her long minority, the affairs of the country remained in the safe hands of Axel Oxenstjerna, her father's trusty chancellor.

Christina personally assumed the government in 1644. By her wit and the brilliance of her intellect, she soon made the Swedish court the most famous in Europe. Thither flocked the foremost thinkers of the age. Grotius, Vossius, and Descartes may be mentioned among them. As time went on her philosophic researches shook Christina's religious beliefs. At last, to escape the torments of doubt, she resolved to adopt the Roman Catholic faith. None saw more clearly than the queen herself that the interests of Sweden demanded a Protestant monarchy. In 1654, therefore, she abdicated her throne and withdrew to Rome, where she died in 1689.

From Christina the Swedish throne passed to her cousin, Charles X. The "Pyrrhus of the North" reigned only six years (1654-60). During this time he astounded Europe by the resource and daring he displayed in his endeavours to turn the Baltic into a Swedish lake.

His successor, Charles XI., was a minor, and a troublous regency ensued. Then Charles XII. (1697-1718) raised Sweden

to the apogee of her glory. As a leader of men, Charles stands out conspicuous among a race of great leaders. His long, fierce duel with Peter of Russia merits an epic. That Peter won was enough in itself to justify his sobriquet "the Great."

Alas for Sweden, Charles XII., when he fell, dragged down his country with him. Such was the crash that only the king's death in 1718 saved Sweden from extinction. Even so, she was shorn of much of Pomerania and of other territories south and east of the Baltic, which the house of Vasa had laboured to acquire; and she sank speedily to the level of a third-rate power.

Under Gustavus III. (1771-92) a marked revival occurred. Since the death of Charles XII., however, Sweden has hardly been a vital factor in European politics. In 1818 on the death of Charles XIII., the last of the old line of kings, the Swedish crown passed to Marshal Bernadotte, who had been elected heir to the throne in 1810. The house of Bernadotte still reigns in Sweden.

As part of the European settlement of 1814, Norway was handed over in an arbitrary manner to Sweden. An uneasy union continued until 1905. Then, in deference to the emphatic wishes of the Norwegian people, Norway again became an independent monarchy.

During the Great War (1914-18), Denmark, Norway, and Sweden were all able to preserve their neutrality.

## SWEDEN: FACTS AND FIGURES

### The Country

Occupies east and south portions of Scandinavian peninsula. Boundaries are Finland on the north, the Gulf of Bothnia and Baltic Sea to the east and south-east, to the west Norway and a sheet of water called Kattegat, with another, the Skager Rak, on the west. In the north is the region where elevations of over 3,000 feet are found. About half the country is covered by forests of pine, birch and spruce, while in the south are oak and beech forests. The bear, lynx and wolf are still found. Climate varies between extremes though summer is short. Total area about 173,000 square miles, with an estimated population of some 6,000,000.

### Government and Constitution

King, who must be a member of the Lutheran Church, wields executive power in conjunction with Council of State of about twelve ministers with and without portfolio at whose head is Prime Minister. Royal assent necessary to all legislation. Parliament or Diet is composed of first and second Chambers. Members of the former number about 150, who are elected by members of the "Landstings" or provincial representations and by electors from six towns outside the "Landstings." The Second Chamber has about 230 members elected by universal suffrage for four years. Both sexes have vote if over 23 and not under legal disability.

### Commerce and Industries

Agriculture chief occupation of people, and there were over 428,000 farms in cultivation during 1919. Among chief crops are rye, wheat, barley, oats and hay. Mineral resources include iron, silver, lead, copper and coal. Saw-milling, the making of pig-iron and steel, and the manufacture of lighthouse apparatus, cream-separators, motors and porcelain are among chief industrial activities. Imports for 1922, which included textiles, coal, machinery and live animals, totalled £64,116,823, while exports, among which were metal goods, wood pulp and paper were valued at £63,456,868. Standard coin the silver krona at nominal value of 1s. 1½d.

### Communications

There are over 9,400 miles of railway, of which about a third are owned by the state. Telegraph wires aggregate more than 49,500 miles, state telephone lines over 412,800 miles, and private telephone wire 6,000 miles. Post offices number more than 3,600.

### Chief Towns

Stockholm capital (estimated population, 422,000), Gothenburg (227,000), Malmö (113,000), Norrköping (58,000), Helsingborg (47,500), Uppsala (29,000).





#### HISTORIC LANDMARK IN THE CENTRE OF MEDIEVAL BERN

This Zeitglockenturm, or clock-tower, once formed the west gate of Bern, "youngest and haughtiest of the famous towns of the Swiss." Rebuilt in the fifteenth century, and modernised in the eighteenth, the clock marks each hour by cock-crowing and a procession of bears, mechanical devices rivalling in ingenuity the appearance of the Magi in the clock-tower of S. Mark's Square at Venice

*Photo, Georg Haechel*